Tributes to

Abraham Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources providing testimonials lauding the 16th President of the United States

Surnames beginning with

A

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

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Tribune -- Abrahamson, Elmer E.

Voice of the People

Writers should be as concise as possible. Give full names and addresses. Manuscripts are not returned. Space is limited: the right to condense letters is reserved. Address letters to Voice of the People, THE TRIBUNE, Chicago, Ill., 60611.

Lincoln and the people

MARINA, Cal.—Destiny was to make Abe Lincoln, born Feb. 12, 1809, the most beloved and honored American. What other citizen of our nation has won the world esteem that he attained?

Who cannot recall Lincoln's famous Gettysburg address, concluding "that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth"? He did not say government of, by, and for politicians, or parties, or the courts, or the military, or the privileged, or the President. He had in mind people—all the people, not only the mighty and wealthy who usually monopolize goods and services and make most of the decisions.

We are subjected to much propaganda that tries to convey the notion that government ought not to be an obedient servant but a bullying master. Where citizens accept such a view, what difference is there between democracy and dictatorship?

As we celebrate the birth of a humble man who rose from poverty to the Presidency, let us recall also these words of his: "The Lord must have loved the common people since He created so many of them."

George Herman

'The last, best hope'

CHICAGO—On Feb. 22, 1861, while on his way to Washington to assume the office of President of a nation on the verge of dissolution, Abraham Lincoln visited Independence Hall in Philadelphia. In a brief address he said: "I am filled with deep emotion at finding myself standing in this place, where were collected together the wisdom, the patriotism, the devotion to principle from which sprang the institutions under which we live."

He then expressed his concept of our country's mission to humanity in these words: "I have often inquired of myself what great principle or idea it was that kept this Confederacy so long together. It was not the mere matter of separation of the colonies from the motherland, but that sentiment in the Declaration of Independence which gave liberty not alone to the people of this country, but hope to all the world for all future time. It was that which gave promise that in due time the weights would be lifted from the shoulders of all men, and that all should have an equal chance."

No doubt it was this great principle that compelled Lincoln to guide his country thru the toils of a civil war for four bloody years to keep the Union intact, for if the Union was dissolved the principle it represented might forever be destroyed. The most important thing in the world to him was the Union, not only because it made men free in our nation but also because it would make men free everywhere. It was what he called "the last, best hope of earth."

Elmer E. Abrahamson

A little girl never forgot

BLUE ISLAND — The approach of President Lincoln's birthday bringing back memories of a story told me by my mother, who was born Anne Kruger in Chicago in 1855.

One day in 1860, Anne found a strange man with her father in his office under the family living quarters. Her father said, "Come in, Anne, and meet this gentleman. This is Mr. Lincoln, who is going to be our next President, I am sure."

Mr. Lincoln took Anne on his knee and said, "I have three boys at home in Springfield, but no little brown-eyed girl like you." She never forgot those words.

Anne was just 10 years old when she and her father were among the thousands of Chicagoans who filed past the casket under the center dome of the Court House to see the body of their beloved President, after his assassination.

Lucille B. Kent

This same Xerox is crossfiled under Herman, George; & Kent, Lucille B.

Original under Herman, George.

Adams, Dr. Edwin W.

Philadelphia INQUIRER, Friday, September 30th, 1949

It's Happening Here

Row Over Name of School Hits New Low

Trade Schools for Vets Face VA Probe

By Frank Brookhouser

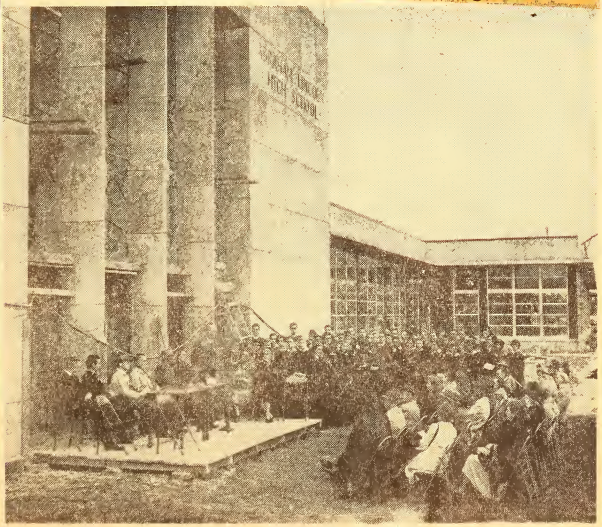
Off the record, Board of Education officials feel strongly that the heated controversy over the name of the new $5,000,000 junior-senior high school at Rowland and Ryan aves. has produced—as one of them expressed it—"a new low in citizenship."

The school was named the Abraham Lincoln School by the board, but a group of residents still insists that it be called the Mayfair School. The last pamphlet this United Committee issued protested against naming the school after a "non-resident," which seems a rather stupid point with "The Great Emancipator" involved.

A large real estate dealer, whose business is to promote the Mayfair section, reportedly has headed the protest against Abe Lincoln. Actually, both Tacony and Holmesburg also have some claim to the school.

Philadelphia EVENING BULLETIN, Tuesday, October 18th, 1949

Cornerstone Laid at Abraham Lincoln High School



Dr. Edwin W. Adams, associate superintendent of public schools, speaks during ceremony at school under construction at Ryan and Rowland avs. Name of school has been under dispute

The cornerstone of the new Abraham Lincoln High School, at Rowland and Ryan avs., Mayfair, was placed today, with school officials and clergymen participating in the ceremony.

The school, built at a cost of $5,100,000 and designed to accommodate 3,500 pupils, is scheduled to open in February, as a combination junior-senior high school. The band and chorus of Frankford High presented a musical program at the cornerstone ceremony. Dr. Edwin W. Adams, associate superintendent of Philadelphia public schools, delivered the address.

There were brief remarks by the Rev. Henry E. Kaufmann, of Emmanuel Episcopal Church; Rabbi Abraham Israelitan, of the Northeast Jewish Community Center, and Charles H. Williams, principal of Benjamin Franklin High who has been named to head the new school. Prayers were offered by the Rev. Daniel Coonahan, of St. Dominic's Catholic Church and the Rev. Carl Weber, of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Adams, John T.

ABE LINCOLN, THE AMERICAN, CHEERED AGAIN

City Bows in Reverence to His Memory.

BY GENEVIEVE FORBES.

Abraham Lincoln, unobtrusive symbol of what the average American wants the average American to be, was the focal point throughout the city yesterday as Chicago, with alert reverence, commemorated the 115th anniversary of the martyred President's birthday.

Banks and courts and schools closed their doors in honor of the Illinois rail splitter. University professors analyzed his qualities as a man and senators urged modern governments to follow his advice as a leader of men. School children modeled in snow the features of Honest Abe and Boy Scouts carried a wreath of blossoms to the President's statue in Lincoln park. And when they danced and dined last night, they did it under flag draped pictures of Abraham Lincoln.

The Good of His Life.

Throughout the day, emphasis was laid upon the good to be derived by the commonwealth in pausing, at this particular period in its history, to listen to Lincoln's advice.

"Humility of heart, homelinesss of mind and gentle patience with lesser men were the three attributes that made Lincoln an immortal memory," John T. Adams, chairman of the Republican national committee, declared last night before the annual convention of the Lincoln league, a Negro national organization.

"So long as the republic lasts, Lincoln's name will last," Adams said, "and so long as his memory remains the nation will remain. By word and deed he established a republicanism so true in principle and purpose that it remains today the well of inspiration for all who believe in party government and a nation supreme."

McCormick Pays Tribute.

United States Senator Medill McCormick, speaking before a meeting of 200 deputy collectors of internal revenue yesterday in Federal Judge Adam C. Cliffe's courtroom, reminded his audience that this year the Lincoln anniversary is "more pregnant of meaning than in many, many preceding years."

For there never was a time, according to Senator McCormick, when these rights were more likely to be put in jeopardy than they are today.

Lincoln, a political inventor of a high order, was praised by Prof. Charles E. Merriam, head of the department of political science at the University of Chicago, speaking at a luncheon in the Lincoln room of the City club.

Political Inventor .

"Lincoln invented the legal formula for resistance to slavery," said Prof. Merriam. "And he invented the legal and political situation which made the union the defendant and the south the aggressor. He projected a system of reconstruction which was never carried out."

Following a rally at Moody tabernacle, 600 Boy Scouts marched to Lincoln park and laid a wreath on the Lincoln monument. James Herron delivered an address on "The Successful Failure of Lincoln."

More than 200 school children, under the supervision of Charles English, supervisor of playgrounds for the board of education, made snow images of Lincoln in Grant park.

Hundreds of other children trooped to the Chicago Historical society to view a Lincoln exhibit arranged by Director Caroline McIlwaine. Addison G Proctor, St. Joseph, Mich., the only living delegate to the national convention that nominated Lincoln for the presidency in 1860, interpreted the relics for the visitors. The exhibit will continue throughout the month.

Club Hears Delegate.

Earlier in the day Mr. Proctor, speaking before the Electric club at the Morrison hotel, told how Lincoln was nominated on the third ballot on the last day of the 1860 convention, held in Wigwam hall, Lake and Market streets. More than 10,000 people, Mr. Proctor said, jammed into the auditorium that day.

Dr. B. J. Cigrand of Batavia made the Lincoln day address at the Chicago Woman's club, and Nehemiah Noynton of Brooklyn, president of the World alliance, spoke before the Rotary club at the Hotel Sherman. The life of the "Emancipator" will be outlined this morning by Prof. Arthur Guy Terry at the chapel exercises at Northwestern university.

Adams, George Matthew

Times Pictorial

Today's Talk

BY GEORGE MATTHEW ADAMS
Author of 'You Can,' 'Take It,' 'Up'

As "A. Lincoln."

Men of great knowledge never live so long in fame as those of great heart.

This is not difficult to understand. For we live in a world of feeling, in a world of equal opportunities, but unequal distribution of them. If each man could arrive at the right opportunity with the same equipment as the other, then there would be equality of opportunity.

The most extraordinary character in modern history is that of Abraham Lincoln. Few men ever come into the world with less opportunity. Born in the crudest sort of log hut, hidden in the backwoods, the boy was left motherless at the age of nine years. But the impress of her love was placed so deeply in his heart that years afterwards he exclaimed that all he was or ever hoped to be he owed to her.

To think of Lincoln today is to ponder on one of the strongest, though gentlest men who ever lived.

He was all the time thinking of others. When they nominated him for the presidency of the United States word came to him in his office at Springfield, Illinois. Immediately he told his friends, "there is a little woman down the street who will want to hear about this!"

Lincoln promoted his generals for their real worth, not for the mistakes they made.

He was always tolerant, fair, forgiving, mindful of his own shortcomings, though never negligent in courage to act when he felt that the right time had come.

Smiles often played in the deep wrinkles of his care-worn face. Sympathy bathed his whole gaunt frame.

One evening as he sat signing scores of public documents, alone with a nurse in the sickroom of his youngest boy, the nurse asked him if he wouldn't sign his name for her, too. "Gladly," he said, "but I will just make it the way I like to sign it best—as A. Lincoln!"

(Copyright 1921 by George Matthew Adams)

Feb 13 - 1921

Adams, George Matthew

The Story Of Lincoln

By GEORGE MATTHEW ADAMS

PROBABLY more has been written about Abraham Lincoln than any other public character since Napoleon. Yet there must be so much more to tell.

Each new book is eagerly bought and read. And now, close to a hundred years since an assassin's bullet ended his earthly career, that kindly character looms greater than ever — with but a fragment of the total story told.

There was no false pride or insincerity in Lincoln's make-up. He was naturally simple, genuine and humble. He was shy, too.

People were habitually influenced by his quaint wisdom and almost uncanny common sense.

He had that common touch people talk about. That's what attracted attention to him when he was a young lawyer in Springfield, Ill.

Lincoln himself would be the last one to seek fame. He was interested in larger things.

And so we gladly, almost reverently, pay homage and honor to Abraham Lincoln on his birthday this Feb. 12th.

Pittsburg, Pa.

2-12-58

Adams. George Matthew

LINCOLN–A HOME MAN

By George Matthew Adams

PROBABLY more has been written about Abraham Lincoln than any other public character since Napoleon. Yet there must be so much more to tell. Each new book is eagerly bought and read. And now close to a hundred years since an assassin's bullet ended his earthly career, that kindly character looms greater than ever—with but a fragment of the total story told.

In an advertisement by a big insurance company some time ago on Lincoln's birthday, a line caught my attention and I have pondered upon it time and time again. It said: "He was everybody, grown a little taller!" What a world of meaning in that line! He was a family man. He loved his own children, but he loved the children of everyone everywhere. Perhaps that is what inspired someone early to exclaim that phrase "Father Abraham" until it crept into the heart of all human kind.

Abraham Lincoln was wholly himself. The mould disappeared after his humble birth. Only Divinity separated the crude log cabin and the humble cow barn in Bethlehem. There was no false pride or insincerity in Lincoln's makeup. He was naturally simple, genuine and humble. He was shy, too. He didn't want to make any fuss about his life or high position.

He was forever giving credit to others though, in a mystical sort of way, people were habitually being influenced by his quaint wisdom and almost uncanny common sense, and then transferring it back to him as original with them!

He had that common touch people talk about. That's what attracted attention to him when he was a young lawyer in Springfield, Ill. Yes, "he was everybody, grown a little taller!" Lincoln himself would be the last one to call all this envious and fleeting fame. He was interested in larger things. He wanted everybody to be happy, and he wanted the country to be united and one forever, and everyone in it just like a fine, devoted American family.

And so we gladly, almost reverently, pay homage and honor, to Lincoln on his birthday this February 12th. Let us remember most his gentleness, his kindness, his fatherliness—all to intermixed and bound with humility and love of country!

Adams, George Matthew
Tribute

PEPPER TALKS

By GEORGE MATTHEW ADAMS

Det St Bureau 2-12-19

LINCOLN.

The greatest thing about Lincoln was his simplicity. Of thinking. Of statement. Of action. So simple and rugged in thought, in appearance and manner that many of the so-called great of his time grossly snubbed and ignored him.

But he never lost faith in those in whom he believed, until they had fully proved their incapacity. As in the cases of McClellan, Hooker, Stanton. "I will hold McClellan's horse if he will but give us victories," he said.

He was one of the most bitterly criticised presidents that America has ever had. "Sub rosa," said Greeley in his New York Tribune, "I can't trust your 'honest old Abe,' he is too smart for me." And at the end of his first term this is what Freemont had to say: "I believe it would be fatal to the country to indorse a policy and renew a power which has cost us the lives of thousands of men, and needlessly put the country on the road to bankruptcy."

And he had his criers against "the annoyances of the censorship" and people called for peace, so greatly that even Emerson said: "It is wonderful to behold that unseasonable senility of what is called the 'Peace Party.'"

Here was a plain man who understood people as few men ever have. He was a master of men. He was born to lead. And he did lead. He never seemed to think that he was great. Probably that is why he really was so great.

But now we know him as he actually was. Simple. And kind. And very lovable. And as we think of him today and look into those pictured eyes, we shall think of the beautiful lines of Walt Mason: "Sad eyes * * * the sleepless companions of sorrow, the watchers that witnessed the dawn * * * sad eyes that were wearied and blighted by visions of sieges and wars, now watch o'er a country united from the luminous slopes of the stars."

Adams, George Matthew

TODAY'S TALK

By George Matthew Adams

Thursday Evening Post 2-12-26

Abraham Lincoln.

AS THE YEARS accumulate, the world comes to respect and love the memory of Abraham Lincoln—"the first American."

The great reason for this was that Lincoln represented so much of us all. Toward those who opposed him or disagreed with him, he had nothing but kindness and consideration and tolerance.

The character of Lincoln is what looms with the spread of the years.

Lincoln's life left no bitterness about it. This is why such beauty of thinking is aroused when consideration of his life work is brought up. In the same way do we think of the character of Lee, who politically opposed Lincoln. Now we honor the memory of each. For they were both Americans.

We have to go to Franklin for such common-sense expression as Lincoln left us. I think it well to make note of a few lines at this time.

"Never stir up litigation. A worse man can scarcely be found than the one who does."

"The way for a young man to rise is to improve himself every way he can, never suspecting that anybody wishes to hinder him."

"If you would win a man to your cause, first convince him that you are his sincere friend."

Truth is your truest friend, no matter what the circumstances are."

In speaking of the Bible, Lincoln once said: "In regard to this great book, I have but to say it is the best gift God has given to man."

Time ripens character. And there are a certain richness and fineness that surround the memory of a true and great man that increase in luster thru the silent years.

The rare spirit of Abraham Lincoln blooms afresh with every Feb. 12th.

(Copyright, 1926, George Matthew Adams.)

Ade, George

By George ADE

The Big MEN are Plain Folks

It's the little ones that Put on Airs

George Ade

ONE item in the note-book we can back up by affidavit, after looking at the human comedy for a good many years. We know that all of the truly great are just plain folks—free from swank, side-show banners and high-sounding talk.

Small insects buzz loudly but giants need not pass out handbills advertising their size. The man whose importance is in doubt has to argue his case every minute. One whose caliber is recognized finds that he can be more comfortable on the ground than up on a pedestal.

When I was a reporter we setters and pointers of daily journalism never had any trouble in getting to the Chief of Police, but the patrolman with a story buttoned inside of his coat growled down at us from the heights above. The millionaire was as common as an old shoe, when we finally broke in, but the he-secretary with the tall collar and the eyebrows treated us as if we were angleworms. Prominent citizens belonging to exclusive clubs were nearly always genial and obliging when cornered by the sleuths of the press, but the flunkeys who stood at the doors of these clubs regarded us with scorn and showed us, by most artful methods, that we were held in contempt.

Let memory check down some great men who were seen at close range: Theodore Roosevelt, Charles Frohman, James Whitcomb Riley, Levy Mayer, Joseph Jefferson, Sir Henry Irving, Walter Q. Gresham, Robert G. Ingersoll, Mark Twain, William Dean Howells, William F. Cody, General Lew Wallace.

A mixed-up list but all great men because each of them could render to his generation a service which others did not seem able to duplicate. Greatness probably means getting important results without straining. The intellect and the emotions are specially geared, and the mortal who is marked for distinction goes ahead and functions without special effort and becomes a whale of a fellow, often to his own surprise and embarrassment.

We have, in the history of our country, a prize model of simplicity and directness. He set a mark at which all of us will shoot in vain. Meaning Abraham Lincoln. He became a master of English merely by using as few words as possible and favoring those which were short, old-fashioned and Anglo-Saxon, instead of Latin. In an era of political pretense and hypocrisy he stood out as a miracle of sincerity because he said what was on his mind instead of trying to think up a good lie.

He was absolutely devoid of lugs. He didn't know how to put on airs. He couldn't think of a good reason why *any* man, at *any* time, should put on airs. His favorite poem was "Why should the spirit of mortal be proud?"

He saw things in perspective and must have understood, as all great men do, that any individual is a small item as compared with the spread-out universe. You can't expect a teacher of dancing, or a New York head-waiter, or the corresponding secretary of the local women's club, or the district golf champion, or the speed cop, or the young man in the theater box-office quite to get Mr. Lincoln's point of view. Those who have been mentioned feel that to get along one must put on lugs. Do not kill them. Try to remember that possibly *you* have put on lugs once or twice.

Indianapolis Star
Indianapolis, Indiana
2-9-64

THE WAY THE WORLD LOOKS

By Mike Ahern

America Must Keep On Learning Lessons Lincoln Taught

This man . . . he walked in the midnight of his nation's history.

This man . . . he watched his people take arms on the field of battle . . . a field that once grew thick with grain now stained with the blood of a civil war.

Ahern

This man . . . he sat long, lonely nights in vigil, keeping watch and waiting for each grim report to reach his desk.

This man . . . his face that once was set in strong, solid features now buckled under the strain of the job he had to do. Now deep hollows were carved in his cheeks, and lines that came with sleepless nights grew long across his brow and ran in crooked fingers from the corners of his eyes.

This man . . . was Abraham Lincoln. He was the captain of a ship that was adrift on stormy, hostile waters. And yet, this man brought that ship safely to port. Never once did the captain's hand leave the wheel . . . never once did he abandon the shaky vessel that took him on a strange and difficult voyage.

It is now 100 years since Abraham Lincoln led this nation through the nightmare that was the Civil War. But this Wednesday, when we celebrate again the day of his birth, all the memories that history taught us of this man return to every American. And despite a modern trend in education to minimize the contributions our forefathers made to the growth of this nation, never once can we forget the lessons Abraham Lincoln left for his people to follow.

Lincoln taught us love. His greatest gift, perhaps, was the lesson that man must love his neighbor, and that the hate that soils this love leads only to bitterness, and then to bloodshed.

Lincoln taught us brotherhood. The common bond that holds a family, a city, a nation together. The strong, solid stuff that ties one man to another . . . a tie that cannot be broken by the petty prejudices that others manufacture in the sickness of their minds.

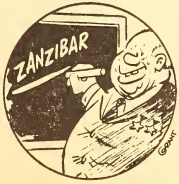
Lincoln taught us understanding. A knowledge that our point of view is not the only one that counts. That this other man, whoever he may be, must be given a chance to speak his mind. And then, to work together toward a common goal of good will.

Yes, the lessons were left for us long ago. The ideas with which Lincoln fired the imagination of a country . . . the freedom of the minorities, the brotherhood of all mankind, the tragedy of war . . . these are lessons we will never lose.

And still he sits in vigil . . . now in a high room in Washington he sits and keeps silent watch over the land he loved so well. Abraham Lincoln sits and waits for another ship to reach its port. Still that ship is lost on the angry waters of conflict . . . still his nation is torn by prejudice, and only now and then do tiny islands of understanding give her refuge. Still his lessons must be learned the way he taught them.

But Abraham Lincoln will wait . . . he has more time now . . . time to wait, safe in the knowledge that his people have not forgotten this man.

Alphabet Soup



"A for Armenia, B for Bulgaria . . . Y for Yugoslavia, Z for Zanzibar."

I 19

Ainsworth, Thomas H.

Abraham Lincoln

Born Feb. 12, 1809, Died April 15, 1865.

Born in obscurity, nurtured in poverty, homely, humble and ungainly, education gleaned from borrowed books, woodsman, raftsman, clerk, lawyer, legislator, president and martyr.

Advanced from the lowest depths to the greatest heights. Gave all he had for freedom's cause, expecting nothing in return. He looms a great colossal mortal for all times.

In our grateful hearts the memory of him is constantly fresh and green as the years roll into eternity.

The example he set and what he did remains a sacred heritage to our great nation forevermore. "And now he belongs to the ages."

THOMAS H. AINSWORTH.

LUNGER

Aked, Rev. Dr. Charles F.

'HAND OF GOD UPON LINCOLN'--DR. AKED

Rockefeller Church Pastor Pays a Tribute to Emancipator in Sermon.

"If God ever revealed His will to any people, He revealed it to the American people."

The Rev. Dr. Charles F. Aked, pastor of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, made the above assertion yesterday in the course of his sermon upon the life of Abraham Lincoln, delivered to an assembly that taxed the church edifice to its capacity. Veterans of the Civil War and some negroes were among the audience.

"Abraham Lincoln held high counsel with the Infinite," continued Dr. Aked. "He knew slavery was wrong, and based his opposition to it upon justice. He occupies a place in the heart of millions that emperors could not buy."

Dr. Aked said he wished his sermon could have been preached by a man born under the Stars and Stripes.

"Lincoln was a man of destiny, a man of sorrow," continued Dr. Aked. "I do not understand him, although I understand Gladstone and Washington; and I doubt whether any of you understand him. It may be that the key to his character is hidden. When the supreme test of greatness came he seized the opportunity, although up to his forty-ninth year there was not one single indication of his future."

It was after his speech at Cooper Union, according to Dr. Aked, that Lincoln first saw the future taking shape beneath his eyes. "But this speech of genius," declared Dr. Aked, "was the result of three months preparation and twenty-five years of thinking.

"As he felt himself girded and armed, more and more he came to see the finger of God pointing, the hand of God upon him. His capacity for suffering was almost infinite. His memory bespeaks our common health and wealth. The nation stands, one people, one flag, and everywhere the home of liberty. So with reverent hand I lay this tribute upon his tomb, and I salute the flag for which he lived and died."

Aked, Rev. Dr. Charles F.

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Christianity of Lincoln Defined

At the Metropolitan Temple, Seventh avenue and Fourteenth street, last night, the Rev. Dr. John Wesley Hill preached on the subject, "Was Lincoln a Christian?"

After rehearsing the life of the Emancipator, he declared: "No, Mr. Lincoln was not allied with the visible Church—but measured by all the tests of the great, invisible and indivisible Church, by his faith in Almighty God, by his belief in Jesus Christ as the Divine Saviour of the world, by his confidence in the Bible as the word of God, by the persistence of his study of the Bible, by his sincere attempt to bring his life into harmony with the precepts of the Bible, by his simple and steady trust in an overshadowing Providence in the midst of the vicissitudes through which he passed, by his reproduction of the spirit of Christ, by the gentleness of his treatment of his enemies, by the patience with which he endured malicious treatment, by his reverence for the Sabbath day, by his devotion to the cause of temperance, and by his proverbial honesty to God, and country, and fellow man—I present Abraham Lincoln as one of the best specimens of a Christian man that has ever lived in the White House."

CONGER

Aked, Dr. C. F.

LINCOLN, FAILURE ON PLATFORM AND IN STORE, MET REAL TESTS AS PRESIDENT, STUDENTS TOLD

Kan. City Journal, Feb 11 22

The world's hero.

This was the way Abraham Lincoln was characterized yesterday morning by Dr. C. F. Aked, pastor of the First Congregational church, in an address to students of Junior college. The students were assembled to pay tribute to the "man of sorrows," the anniversary of whose birthday is tomorrow.

"I do not understand the man Lincoln," Dr. Aked said. "Born below the line of respectable poverty, the son of a shiftless father, his childhood was destitute even of the makeshift comforts of the pioneer.

"Until he was nearly 50 years old he never gave a hint of the greatness which was to endear him to the people. He went to the Black Hawk war a captain; he came back a private; he tried to keep a store and grew poorer than when he started it. He was defeated at first for the legislature and for the first two years while he served, Illinois had the worst legislation the state has ever known. He was defeated for vice president. Trying the lyceum, he made a dead failure.

"When he became president, Lincoln rose to the supreme test which can come to a woman or a man, the capacity for rising greatly to a great occasion. Office alone cannot confer greatness; it only affords the opportunity for greatness.

Literature Ranks With Best.

"This man to whom no college on earth would have granted a degree—the country lawyer—has written models of literature which in faultless English stand with Shakespeare, the Bible and Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress.'

"Lincoln never based his opposition to slavery on expediency or philanthropy. It was not the love of man for man which caused him to free the slave. He based his reason on justice alone, saying whoever would not be a slave should not own a slave.

"Men of affairs explain his powers as "consisting of a blend of the faculties of analysis and synthesis." This does not explain his powers to me. Lincoln was a seer, a man of the old prophetic type.

Smiles Hide Suffering.

"Lincoln's capacity for suffering was infinite. His smile was put on to hide his tears; his anecdotes and jokes were merely an armor deliberately assumed for guarding the sacred things within his breast. He belongs not to the North, the South, the East or the West, nor does America have a monopoly of his majesty. His spirit lives in us today."

Prof. E. M. Balster, president of Junior college, presented Dr. Aked with a cast of the head of Lincoln, made in the college shops.

Aked, Dr. Charles F.

FORUM HEARS OF GREAT MEN

Talker Compares Lincoln And Gladstone; "Both Giants"

"Lincoln and Gladstone, born the same year, though one in poverty the other an aristocrat, were the twin giants of the English-speaking race. Their greatness was not the greatness of country or clime; it was rather the greatness of race," Dr. Charles F. Aked, well-known lecturer, said last night, speaking at the Open Forum.

He sketched Lincoln's rough background, his self-education, his simple, homely speech and humble career as an attorney until almost 50 years old, contrasting it with Gladstone's aristocratic parentage, thorough education, polished language, and 64 years of public career.

Dr. Aked then compared them. Both had a passionate love of justice, both were essentially religious, both believed in the essential goodness of man, and in liberty, though Lincoln differed from Gladstone in his unswerving belief in liberty for all, while Gladstone had to learn that liberty was good for every man.

Aked concluded with a summary of relations of Great Britain and the United States, with which Gladstone had much to do.

"Lincoln was the world's hero," he said. "When Gladstone died, England lost her greatest citizen."

Akers, Milburn P.

An Old Man's Dream?

Lincoln's Words of Courage When Nation Is Endangered

[Story on Lincoln's Birthday celebrations on Page 15.]

By Milburn P. Akers.

OLD MEN, so the Book of Joel relates, dream dreams. Whether this story, first told me a little more than three years ago by an old man, be but a dream, I know not. I tell it to you now merely because this chances to be Feb. 12.

If you, after reading the story, want to think of it as but an old man's dream, he'll not quarrel with you. For he, too, now sleeps in Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery, not far from the tomb of Abraham Lincoln.

But as for me, I'll take the old man's story as proof of that which the vagabond poet, Vachel Lindsay, wrote: that Abraham Lincoln, whenever the Union is endangered, walks the streets of Springfield at midnight.

* * *

I MET the old man one December night in 1941, near 8th and Jackson streets, in Springfield. It's an intersection Lincoln knew well, for the only home he ever owned is located there.

The old man, who had been born in 1860, was walking with difficulty. He seemed to need a younger arm on which to lean. And so, as I guided him to his home not far away, I remarked on the inclemency of the weather and the lateness of the hour.

"Yes," he said, "it's a bad night out, and it's late for an old man

See DREAM, Page 19, Col. 3.

Chi. Sun - 2-12-45

An Old Man Tells of Lincoln, Words of Courage to Nation

DREAM, from Page 1.

to be up. But I thought, perhaps, Mr. Lincoln would be out tonight. The Union's in trouble, my boy, and I wanted to hear what Mr. Lincoln would have to say."

* * *

I MADE no answer; he was an old man. And, in the excitement of the next day, I forgot the occurrence, as word flashed 'round the world that Pearl Harbor had been bombed.

On Monday — following Pearl Harbor—I thought of the old man who wanted to know what Mr. Lincoln might have to say, and so I went to his home.

He was in bed, as he'd stayed up late that Sunday night.

He had seen Mr. Lincoln last midnight?

"Yes, I saw him," he replied.

And then, without further conversation, he recited:

"A bronzed, lank man! His suit of ancient black,
"A famous high top-hat, and plain worn shawl
"Make him the quaint great figure that men love,
"The prairie lawyer, master of us all."

* * *

IT WAS some months before I found that verse, and, when I discovered it in Lindsay's poem, I knew that others besides an old man believed the Great Emancipator still concerned himself with the State of the Union, and walked the streets of Springfield in thought and anguish when times were perilous.

"What," I asked the old man, when he had finished the quotation from Lindsay, "did Mr. Lincoln say?"

"—let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

* * *

WHEN next I was in Springfield a gold star hung in the window of the old man's house.

He told me of his grandson, who had died in the Pacific, and of what Mr. Lincoln had said to him in way of comfort when they had again met:

"I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

Midway, Tarawa, Anzio and Normandy—each a costly sacrifice upon the altar of freedom—had matched Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chickamauga and Gettysburg before I again saw the old man. It was apparent, then, that he'd fall short of the four score and seven years he'd determined upon as his span of life. It didn't seem likely that he had seen Mr. Lincoln for some time. But I was mistaken.

* * *

AS WE talked of the war, and of the presidential campaign then raging, as one had raged during the Civil War, he suddenly said:

"I saw Mr. Lincoln a few nights ago."

"Yes," I replied, and waited.

And then, in the faltering tones of an old man of 84, it came:

"I am loath to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

* * *

I NEVER saw the old man again. He'd gone to join Mr. Lincoln in Oak Ridge Cemetery before I got to Springfield once more. But I'm told he had had another conversation. It came one night when he was concerned over a large casualty list he'd seen in a newspaper.

Mr. Lincoln, he reported, had enjoined him:

"—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

LINCOLN HONORED IN OSKALOO-

"GLOBE" SA. 2.20.1905

Lincoln Day was duly celebrated in Oskaloosa by numerous programs. Penn College heard the address of Rev. Eugene Allen, of the Central Methodist church, of this city, and it was a strong address.

Dr. Allen said in part:

There are two events in the history of our nation that speak at once of the glory and perpetuity of democratic institutions. The one is that convention of 1787, in Philadelphia, when the constitution was framed, a meeting presided over by General Washington. The other was that convention of 1860 in Chicago, called by the hosts of freedom, when, if ever, the voice of the people was the voice of God.

Probably no more heterogenous body ever assembled than the convention of Republicans in 1860. They scarcely agreed upon any point, save one, and that was the non-extension of slavery. As to candidates, they were diverse in opinion. Yet, it was instinctively felt that the convention would have the duty of nominating the man who would be chosen to the Presidency. There were those who looked to men of the stamp of Phillips and Garrison but Phillips and Garrison cared only for the liberation of the slave. Little did they deem the worth of a union which countenanced human bondage. But the nation demanded the salvation of the Union. Clearly Phillips and Garrison were illogical candidates. There were those who cried: "Give us Stephen A. Douglass, the Little Giant." Douglass had obtained popularity since he had become involved in a quarrel with the Buchanan administration over the issue of popular sovereignty. Many looked to him as the champion of a united people. But his hands had ruthlessly torn from its base the fair fabric of the compromise of 1820. The blood of the wounded Union cried up from the ground, and men felt that Douglass was greatly responsible. There was a man, prominently before the country, who was supposed to be the only logical candidate. He had twice been governor of the State of New York, the protege of Gen. Zachary Taylor, while the shadow of the slave most fell athwart his pathway every day. He had taken advance ground on the question of slavery and was popular as an exponent of human freedom. His partisans were confident of his election, and even the newsboys cried forth his name on the streets as the next President. But there are strange paradoxes in human history and many in our annals. Here is one. William H. Seward was rejected as being too radical on the slavery question but the man who was chosen was even more radical. In the crucial moment of the convention a pause came, and a silence fell upon the company. They looked to the North! to the South! to the East! and to the West, but found no man, when, lo, Divine guidance bade them gaze upward and they saw, as it were, the iron gates of war swing widely open, and fall upon the threshold their leader, Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois.

For fifty years the world has lovingly studied the history of this man, and the wonder grows with time. In fact, he is so many sided that each man gets his particular view, and no one man gets it all. Therefore we welcome the words of any who come, bringing their meed of interpretation or characterization. No sadder life was ever lived than Lincoln's, nor any which more truly ran the gamut of human experience. Born in backwoods of Kentucky, on a dirt floor in a rude hut, this man stepped from glory unto glory until his name was safely enrolled amongst the immortals.

What are the elements in his character that make him the mighty force he is, today, in the lives of men? To know this we must take him down from the pedestal of worship where he has been kept too long. We must draw him from the mists of legend which have so thoroughly enwrapped him. We shall know him best if we make him a man among men and study him at close range. Let me speak of a few traits which brought him prominently forth, and of a few which will perpetuate his fame.

Lincoln was a born humorist. In his backwood days, this gift won him friends who were hooked to him with chains of steel. A sly thrust, or a witty tale won for him many a case before the pioneer bar of Illinois. When he became President, the gift of humor was a saving trait, often turning a dangerous corner for him and the nation. If the great war secretary, Stanton, had possessed a tithe of Lincoln's humor he would not have lain down by Life's roadside utterly exhausted and dying in young manhood. It may be that Lincoln inherited his mental and moral greatness from his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, but let us presume that from his father, poor old Thomas Lincoln, the great son inherited his gift of humor. Two volumes of wit they are on History's shelf—Thomas Lincoln the primer and Abraham the unabridged dictionary.

Lincoln was an expert politician. He was ambitious, and knew how to pull wires in order to win. He knew State politics with the knowledge of the ward politician. Some imagine he secured his place by a kind Providence and stood still until chosen. Far from the truth. He toiled incessantly for success. But he was no politician of the loaves and fishes kind. Nothing dishonorable ever connected itself with his political ambitions. He is a constant inspiration to all young men who have the gift for political accomplishment. Let him be your example.

Again, Lincoln knew men. It was said, when he was elected President, that Seward or Chase would be the power behind the throne. They assumed as much, but he quickly enlightened them on this point. They soon learned that he was the real head of the government. He moved world-famed men on the political field as one would move pawns on the chess board. When Douglas visited the Illinois legislature at the outbreak of the war, and eloquently counseled preparations for the coming conflict, the whole country applauded, but behind the doughty form of the Little Giant, rose the gaunt figure of Abraham Lincoln, whose consummate tact inspired that address. Perhaps no other man was more brilliant than the great Seward, but he learned to trust the shrewd sense of Mr. Lincoln and to obey him implicitly.

Now, there are some traits in Lincoln's character which will serve to perpetuate his memory and fame. He was honest. Stories are told of his returning money when having unwittingly over charged, but he was possessed of a more uncommon honesty than that. He was intellectually as well as morally honest. No superficial understanding of a matter would satisfy him. By the light of the kitchen fire, or the rays of the morning sun he might be found in his youthful days, digging deeply into the works of any solid writer whose book chanced to fall into his possession. This trait of inbred honesty served the Nation in good stead during the dark days of the Civil war. The men in the field were certain that any moral fruits of their hard earned victories would not be thrown away by any careless or superficial administration in the White House. I believe the era of political integrity, and commercial integrity now upon us is due in no small measure to the inspiring example of Abraham Lincoln. Certain it is when his ideas of public and private honor prevail the cry against civic unrighteousness will be largely a work of supererogation.

Lincoln was a master of the language. One of the wonderful things is his grasp of English, both written and spoken. His debate with Douglas, in 1858, opened the eyes of the country to his ability, but it remained for the war crisis to demonstrate his marvellous power in this respect. His second inaugural address and his Gettysburg speech reach the high water mark of American oratory. At first turgid and sophomoric, his oratory became rounded and polished in the rough school of experience. His homely sayings contain such wisdom as Benjamin Franklin might have uttered.

Lastly, Lincoln was intensely religious, not with a creedal religion, but a vital. Of course, any man in his position would be driven to prayer, but Lincoln became profoundly devout. Read his speeches from 1862 on and you will discover this to be true. He was priest as well as politician. Though regarding men in particular he was keenly discerning—an X-ray on legs—he regarded the providences of God as inscrutable and humbly formed under the divine will. Men will more and more study his religious side and will be strengthened in faith thereby.

J WRIGHT

In closing the speaker portrayed both Washington and Lincoln and he spoke of their labors as being mutually necessary. Lincoln could not have done less than to save the Union, unless content with failure in his work, and future ages will declare that his glory will be in that he could not have done more.

J WRIGHT

Allen, Henry J.

AFFIRM FAITH IN LINCOLN IDEALS

Members Hear Eloquence of Henry J. Allen

Kansas Ex-Governor Lauds Industrial Peace Here

Matyred President's Son Sends Letter of Regret

Pledging anew their dedication to the high principles of devotion to country and unselfish service to mankind as found in the character and deeds of Abraham Lincoln, more than 100 members of the Lincoln Club of California last night heard in the eloquence of Henry J. Allen, former Governor of Kansas, noted newspaper publisher and one of the greatest orators of the nation, a stirring recital of the scope of Lincoln's influence upon America.

The Lincoln Club banquet, which has become an occasion for a rallynig of the representative Republican leaders of the State, was held in the University Club. Henry M. Robinson, president of the organization, was toastmaster. In keeping with precedent, Dr. John Willis Baer, vice-president, read Lincoln's Gettysburg address.

A letter expressing regret that he could not be present was read from the martyred President's son, Robert Todd Lincoln, now 82 years of age.

TALK ON FOREIGN POLICY

Preceding the address by former Gov. Allen, Leslie B. Henry of Pasadena discussed "Lincoln's Foreign Policy" and its relation to the policies of succeeding national administrations.

Mr. Allen, who achieved national reputation through his creation of an industrial court to settle disputes arising between employer and employee, took occasion in his preliminary remarks to commend warmly the progress made in Los Angeles and Southern California toward obviating labor disputes.

"Without a desire to appear extraordinarily polite," he said, "I want to say to you that I have never been so impressed anywhere as I have been here in Los Angeles and Southern California by the remarkable attainment of industrial peace both with justice to the employer and the employee.

"This spot, here, is the most hopeful of any I have studied. You have attained industrial freedom through establishing a point of contact between capital and labor."

His analysis of Lincoln's influence upon the people and the government of the United States, an influence which, he said, "runs through the nation like a thread of gold," embraced reference to the policies and utterances of the first Republican President and a comprehensive survey of conditions existing at home and abroad.

"The Republican party was not born," said Mr. Allen, "out of the days that brought us Abraham Lincoln; it was born more than 100 years before Lincoln, when a little group of Cavaliers disembarked at Jamestown and another group, the Puritans, landed on Plymouth Rock. It was out of the two warring ideas as represented by those two groups that the Civil War developed."

LINCOLN'S QUALITIES

Then, sketching in graphic sentences the qualities of fairness, justice, kindliness and steadfastness that made Lincoln great, the noted Kansan pictured the effect of Lincoln's character and personality upon succeeding generations and upon the present.

He devoted himself particularly to a discussion of the comparative conditions today of the United States and Russia, which he visited as a minister from this country soon after Senator Brookhart and other United States officials returned from the soviet republic with glowing accounts of progress and prosperity.

Referring humorously to the assertion of Senator Brookhart that, second to the United States, Russia possessed the most hopeful and dependable government in the world, Mr. Allen presented an opposite picture in which suspicion, want, tyranny, industrial collapse and governmental inefficiency predominated.

Whatever improvement has been achieved in Russia within recent times, he asserted, has been measured by the extent of the departure from the Socialistic doctrines and practices of the Bolshevist regime.

Commenting on the occasional complaint that America has failed to contribute its just share toward a solution of world problems, Mr. Allen drew nearty applause when he asserted that "thus far America had contributed everything that has been contributed."

"I would be glad," he said, "to forgive France her debt, but I would first want France to quit spending money in worry over the next war."

Warm commendation of the work of Mr. Robinson as a member of the Dawes Reparations Commission was expressed by Mr. Allen, who said that "this outstanding achievement would be characterized as one of the greatest achievements of a League of Nations—if the League of Nations had achieved it."

Lincoln, in the opinion of Mr. Allen, if living today would favor entrance by the United States into the League of Nations—with reservations.

In concluding his observations upon conditions in Russia, Mr. Allen declared that while he favored recognition of Russia it should be withheld until that country had complied with all the conditions laid down by Secretary of State Hughes.

"It is axiomatic that a country progresses only as fast as its lowest stock climbs upward," Mr. Allen said. "And Russia's enormous population is composed of more than 90 per cent peasants of which more than 90 per cent are illiterate. Russia has a long path ahead. It must follow the history of England, France and other countries. It may be a generation, possibly two, before it will reach the heights which its native wealth and size justify."

Mr. Allen also touched upon the "international political immaturity" of this country, saying that while we may be the greatest nation in the world, economically, commercially and in other ways, we were not the greatest country when it comes to international diplomacy.

POLITICAL LEADERS

"Politics, the science of government, we turn our backs upon," Mr. Allen said. "In fact, we might say that the men in public life are recruited from two classes. The first is composed in the majority of middle-aged men, successful for the most part in their respective lines, but possessing characteristics unsuited for international intrigue or that peculiar mental agility necessary in the courts of the world. The other class come from the failures, those men who have made a success at failing in their life work.

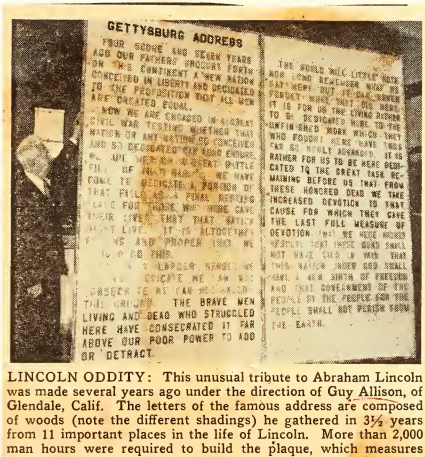
"If Abraham Lincoln were here today, he would undoubtedly advise the people of the country to study political conditions, to correlate the history of the world with the politics and the economic and social conditions of the present. We need to grow an international mind and international intelligence. And one of the greatest points of our duty should be to encourage the study of government among the young, to fit our children, the students of the country, for a career in public life."

Following the conclusion of Mr. Allen's address the club members voted unanimously to continue Mr. Robinson as president of the organization and with him the other officers of the club, including Dr. Baer, first vice-president; C. C. Teague, second vice-president; Marco H. Hellman, treasurer; Walter R. Leeds, secretary, and a board of directors comprising William M. Garland, Edward A. Dickson, Harry M. Haldeman, Edward D. Lyman, Harry Chandler, Victor E. Shaw, Albert J. Wallace, Walter K. Tuller and Philip A. Stanton.

A silent toast was drunk to the following seven members of the Lincoln Club who have died—the late President Harding, Dr. Norman Bridge, A. B. Cass, Arthur Letts, former United States Senator Cornelius Cole, Dr. Walter Lindley and E. S. Chapman.

ALLISON, GUY

GRIT, Williamsport, Pa.
February 9, 1958



LINCOLN ODDITY: This unusual tribute to Abraham Lincoln was made several years ago under the direction of Guy Allison, of Glendale, Calif. The letters of the famous address are composed of woods (note the different shadings) he gathered in 3½ years from 11 important places in the life of Lincoln. More than 2,000 man hours were required to build the plaque, which measures 18x5½ feet. The molding around the plaque is composed of woods gathered from more than 40 historical spots in the United States.

American Missionary Feb. 1920

(TRIBUTE)

It is a far cry from that ever memorable convention to the "dark and mysterious days" of Abraham Lincoln, leader of the greater American nation to a greater life, who in his farewell address to his Springfield neighbors said, "I go to assume a task more difficult than that which devolved upon George Washington. Unless the great God who inspired him shall be with me and inspire me, I must fail, but if the same Omniscient and Almighty Mind that directed and protected him shall guide and support me I shall not fail; I shall succeed. Let us pray that the God of our fathers will not forsake us now." Abraham Lincoln, did not fail. Though slain by the hand of an assassin.

1861

"Thou art still living; thou shalt ever live
To shape the manhood of thy native land,
Thou gavest all, and thou shalt ever give
Thy love, thy patience and thy self command
To spirits fine who sifted in thy sieve
Thy story read and reading understand."

—*A. F. B.*

American Missionary
February, 1920.

The AMERICAN MISSIONARY

February 1920

Lincoln Edition

The Oakland Post-Enquirer Anderson, A. E.

American Missionary, Feb., 1911.

(Tribute)

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

THOSE of us who saw and heard Abraham Lincoln in his famous address in Cooper Institute fifty-one years ago will never lose the impression of that hour. As he stepped forth with his first utterance "all eyes were fastened upon him"—for public interest and public feeling were rapidly becoming intense. Of unusual stature, 6 feet 4 inches, of spare but muscular build, with his broad, high forehead, prominent cheek bones, grey, deep-set eyes and wavy black hair, he was at once a commanding figure. In manner simple, free from awkwardness, free from self-consciousness, dignified, direct, his words came like the blows of a hammer on the anvil. They rang like that, too. In speech plain, terse, forcible and supremely earnest, his sincerity carried with it both sympathy and conviction.

His mental qualities have been characterized as a quick analytical perception, strong logical power, a tenacious memory and a ready intuition of human nature. Perhaps his most valuable faculty was rare ability to divest himself of all feeling or passion in weighing motives of persons, or problems of state. Yielding and accommodating in non-essentials, he was inflexibly firm in a principle. "Let us have faith that right makes might and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty." Great words these. Greatest in the lives and conscience of men. As we remember his natal day with grateful honor we are sure that as time goes on his fame will forever grow.

"History must accord him the rarest sagacity in guiding a great people through the perils of a mighty revolution, an admirable singleness of aim, a skillful discernment, and courageous seizure of the golden moment to free his nation from the incubus of slavery, faithful adherence to law, and conscientious moderation in the use of power, a shining personal example of honesty and purity, and finally the possession of that subtle and indefinable magnetism by which he subordinated and directed dangerously disturbed and perverted moral and political forces to the restoration of peace and constitutional authority, and the gift of liberty to four millions of human beings. Architect of his own fortune, rising with every opportunity, mastering every emergency, fulfilling every duty, he not only proved himself pre-eminently the man for the hour, but the signal benefactor of posterity. As statesman, ruler and liberator civilization will hold his name in perpetual honor."

St. Rockland Post-Courier Anderson, S. C.

THE HUMAN SIDE of IT

by A. E. Anderson

Mr. Anderson is a lecturer in the Extension Division of the University of California and a member of The Post-Enquirer editorial staff. His articles are a daily feature of this page.

The Unconventionality of Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was unconvential. His unconventionality was the source of much of his charm and greatness.

Or one could put it the other way around: being great, deeply original, he had no inclination to conform to patterns of mere conventionality. Strongly creative personalities are rarely conventional; conventional people are rarely great.

The reason for this is easily seen. A conventional way of living, thinking, feeling is a conforming way, and a person who does only what has been done, what is usually done, what others are doing will not do anything outstandingly original, boldly distinctive.

A great personality, on the other hand, shapes its own patterns. It finds the tame ways of conformity too restrictive for its creative purpose and disregards them.

Whether being unconventional gives a strong personality more elbow room and enables it to achieve greatness, or whether the greatness inherent in a man causes him to do things in his own manner is one of those questions of cause and consequence in which the one can hardly be separated from the other, each affecting the other and being in turn affected.

When Lincoln shocked pompous conventional visitors by putting aside with a funny story some issue of the sort conventional minds approach with stiff-bosomed gravity he seemed to them not great, but trivial. But it was their official gravity and the legalistic quandaries they debated at such length that he regarded as trivial.

Committee chairmen in congress and staff officers in the army were always for acting in ways prescribed by traditional routine. Lincoln strode firmly across their imaginary lines because he had something more at heart than upholding an official tradition or conforming to customary methods.

Conformity is a support for weak natures but a strait-jacket for strong ones. Some aren't self-controlled enough to conform: they are society's waifs and wreckage. Towards these the conforming many are harsh and cruel, but they are quite as ready to condemn those too strong to submit to their petty rules.

It isn't surprising that Lincoln was misunderstood in his lifetime and much reviled. People, especially very respectable people, had a stock of ideas about how a president ought to look and act and conduct himself. But Lincoln wasn't playing a role. He wasn't enacting a stuffed-shirt part. He was being president of the United States in a time of national peril and crisis and he was doing it in the way he believed it ought to be done.

He had his own conceptions of truth and justice, of the meaning of our democracy, of the needs of the nation. These he followed, letting the bureaucrats on the one hand and the fanatical agitators on the other clamor as they pleased. And when they came to him to point out the error of his ways he told them funny stories.

A gaunt ungainly figure with a homely care-creased face, wearing his loose clothes like a country store-keeper, and using words like one who relished the juice in them, a man of the people who always remained one of the people even when isolated in the lonely eminence of the highest and most burdensome office in the nation, a man so unique, so original that it took a century for the world to grasp the full measure of his greatness, so unconventional that everything he said and did was characteristic of himself.

nderson,
Sherwood

LITTLE THINGS

by Sherwood Anderson

Author of "Winesburg, Ohio," "Dark Laughter" and many other novels

THERE is a long letter on my desk from a young man. Something I have written and that has been published has upset him. He is one of the young men you meet everywhere now: he has a burning desire to remake life, the whole social scheme. He is a little fretful and angry at me because I like the Oak Hills, the smaller scenes; because I have doubts about the ends to be achieved by trying to be a big thinker, a mover of masses of men.

He scolds at me. I had somewhere said something about the necessity nowadays of staying put. In saying that, I had in mind staying closer home in our thoughts and feelings. The big world outside now is so filled with confusion. It seemed to me that our only hope, in the present muddle, was to try thinking small.

It must be that the young man who has written the letter to me feels that he has something great to give to the world. In his letter he speaks of the rapidity with which men now move from place to place. I had, in what I had written, spoken about the advisability of a man's wanting to live fully, at the beginning, in a small way; trying, for example, to get a little better understanding of the people in his own house, in the street on which his house stands; trying to get closer to the people of his own town.

It had seemed to me, as I wrote, that a man like Lincoln must have begun like that. With what strange sadness he left the town of Springfield, Illinois, to become President. There was a little speech made to the people of the town at the railroad station when he left, and it is one of the most moving things in literature. As you read, you feel Lincoln was a man who grew like a tree, beginning small, getting keen understanding of the little life about him and emerging into the large.

THE young man who has written to me says that he is going off to New York City. He feels that he must get among other intellectuals, bigger people than he finds in his home town, people who have bigger thoughts, vaster dreams. He declares that the day of the individual has passed, that now we must think of people only in the mass. A man must learn to love and work for the masses.

The proletariat, the middle class, the capitalist class! A man is no longer just a man going along, trying a little to cultivate his own senses, trying to see more, feel more, hear more. That day has passed now. The young man feels that Oak Hill is not big enough for the big life he says he feels in himself. It may be that I am being unfair to him. It seems to me that a man like Lincoln would still have been Lincoln had he never left Springfield, Illinois; that he grew naturally, as a tree grows, out of the soil of Springfield, Illinois, out of the people about him whom he knew so intimately.

It seems to me that he grew out of a house, a street, a shabby little country lawyer's office; out of his touch with the common men he met in little country courtrooms; and that all this made him the man he became.

Such a man was not thinking, I am sure, of masses of men, the middle class, the proletariat, etc., but of other individuals about him everywhere. You will remember how angry he made some of the Civil War generals. There were country boys who went to sleep on picket duty, or grew afraid and ran away before a battle. The generals declared such boys must be shot, but Lincoln wouldn't agree. He kept pardoning them. They kept declaring he was bringing ruin to the big thing, the army, the state; but he did not ruin the army or the state. In the end he saved the state.

He kept seeing the country boy as some country boy he had known. His mind and his heart functioned that way.

IT may be that there is a bigness every man should seek, but the world is full now of false bigness. Men speaking at meetings, trying to move masses of other men, getting a big feeling in that way; there's a trickiness in that approach to others — through applause, feeling of false power and importance.

The Oak Hills are too small for such men. Their own houses are too small. They must have a great field, millions of men as listeners to their voices.

The young man who wrote is half-angry with me because I said to him, "Why not Oak Hill? What's the matter with Oak Hill?"

He can't wait for the slow growth of understanding of others in such a small place. That is what he says.

He says that he is going to New York and that in the great city he will learn to give himself to others.

He declares he can't do it in Oak Hill, that he isn't understood there. He feels cramped.

But as I read his letter I kept asking myself over and over the same question:

"What's the matter with Oak Hill?"

I kept remembering that when Lincoln left Springfield, he asked his partner in a country law office to leave his name on the sign hanging out of the office window. He dreamed of coming back and taking up his old life in a small circle.

It must have been his ability to move and feel and live within the small scene that made him so effective in the larger place and that has left him such a vivid figure in our minds.

All of the big world outside was just more and more Springfields to him.

What's the matter with Oak Hill?

Why not Oak Hill?

from

Andrews, Col. Wesley R.

COL. W. R. ANDREWS DISCUSSES LINCOLN

Says no Man Was So Shamefully Abused as Was the Emancipator.

In discussing the Lincoln anniversary with some Pennsylvania Congressmen at the New Willard Hotel this week, Col. Wesley R. Andrews, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Republican Committee, recalled some of the exciting incidents of the campaign that preceded the first election of Lincoln.

Colonel Andrews has been in politics for more than half a century. In the campaign of 1856 he was not old enough to vote, but he arranged political meetings in sopport of Fremont and Dayton, the first national ticket of the Republican party. He cast his first vote at a State election two years later. "The campaign of 1856 was a tame affair compared with the first Lincoln campaign," said Colonel Andrews. "Freemont and Dayton had been nominated at Music Fund Hall in Philadelphia by a convention representing a combination of the Whigs and Free Soil Democrats. The slogan of the Freemont men was, 'free speech, a free press and free men.' Freemont swept New York but James Buchanan carried Pennsylvania and other large states and won.

"In the campaign four years later I was living at Jamestown, New York, then a small town. I was a delegate to the county convention called to elect delegates to the State convention that was to name national delegates. Alanzo Kent was the national delegate for our end of the congressional district. I was a member of a committee that waited upon Mr. Kent and urged him to do his utmost to advance the presidential candidacy of William H. Seward, then the idol of the Republicans of New York. With many thousands of other Republicans in the State I was deeply disappointed over Seward's defeat. But when Kent returned home he spoke so highly of Lincoln that I was reconciled to his nomination.

"By the opening of the campaign I was one of the most enthusiastic Lincoln men in the country. I participated in organizing a 'Wide Awake Club,' which was commanded by Captain James M. Brown, who as colonel of the One Hundredth New York Regiment was killed at the battle of Fair Oaks in 1862. The campaign that followed was the most exciting political campaign this country has ever witnessed. Men neglected their business for politics and the women plunged into the campaign with the men. At that time the polls opened at sunrise. I arose at four o'clock and equipped with tickets sought out voters and urged them to vote early. In performing this duty I frequently met with strenuous opposition, but I remember I usually succeeded in inducing the hesitating voter to cast his vote for Lincoln and the full Republican ticket.

"We received the returns at the station of the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad, which had been built through Jamestown that year. We persuaded the operator to remain at the key until daybreak, when a message came from New York indicating that Lincoln had been elected. Then came a lull, followed by the inauguration of Lincoln, the firing on Fort Sumpter and the Civil War. No other figure in public life has been so shamefully abused as was Abraham Lincoln. But he outlived the attacks of all his enemies for he was the greatest man this country has ever produced."

Colonel Andrews was a member of a large body of citizens who waited upon the editors of some of the seditious newspapers of New York City and compelled them to display the United States flag. He served with New York regiments until honorably discharged for disability incurred in line of duty.

CONGRE

Paul Angle

Paul M. Angle with rare original painting of Lincoln at Chicago Historical Society headquarters. Done by Dennis Malone Carter in 1866, it depicts freed slaves welcoming Lincoln in Richmond, Va., on April 4, 1865. (AP)

Abiding Faith In Democracy

Paul M. Angle, director of the Chicago Historical Society, has been a student of Lincolniana for 40 years. In this article, written for the Associated Press on the centenary of Lincoln's assassination, he sets forth his view of the 16th President's legacy.

Lincoln's Gift To Posterity

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Union was, of course, the theme of the greatest of all Lincoln's writing, the Gettysburg address:

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But consider the situation of the Negro in 1865. Slavery had just been abolished, but that was the only condition of his life that had changed. The great majority of Negroes were illiterate: in bondage they had been prevented from learning to read and write. Few had skills other than those of the plantation worker. Few, at least in the South, knew anything of the world beyond the fields in which they worked. In general—of course there were many exceptions—the Negro in 1865 was not the white man's equal.

THE NEGRO TODAY bears little resemblance to his predecessor of a century ago except in the color of his skin. He is no longer unaware of the world, he is literate, he has proven his capability in every field of endeavor. How can what Lincoln said and thought about the Negro of his time be applied to the Negro of 1965? It can't.

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Take the simple matter of integrity. Lapses seem to confront us everywhere—in government, in business, in society. We tend to consider immoral behavior a sign of the times, yet everyone realizes that venality has been with us always.

It is significant, therefore, that the high moral qualities which Lincoln exemplified were so obvious that they earned him even in youth the nickname of "Honest Abe." He spent his life in occupations peculiarly susceptible to temptation—the law and politics—yet not a suspicion of scandal ever touched him.

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"Now that the election is over," Lincoln said, "may not all, having a common interest, reunite in a common effort to save our common country? For my own part I have striven, and shall strive to avoid placing any obstacle in the way. So long as I have been here I have not willingly planted a thorn in any man's bosom."

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Lincoln fought the Civil War to preserve the Union. But the preservation of the Union was not his ultimate goal. The Union had to be saved in order to prove the stability of the democratic form of government. If a minority, after losing a fair election, could break up the nation, "the last, best hope of earth" would vanish.

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FINALLY, LINCOLN BEQUEATHED to the world the example of his own peculiar approach to grave problems. To avoid labels reminiscent of the 1964 presidential campaign let us call it deliberateness, and define the word as the habit of weighing facts and arguments before reaching a decision.

On his first full day as President, Lincoln came face to face with a crucial problem. Maj. Robert Anderson, beleaguered at Fort Sumter, would soon run out of supplies. Should the garrison be evacuated, supplied, or reinforced? Peace or war would hinge on the answer to this question. Lincoln deliberated. Nothing would be lost by taking time; much might be gained.

In the end, time ran out. But when the war came the South, by opening fire instead of permitting the peaceful provisioning of 120 hungry men, stood before the world as the aggressor.

The Proclamation of Emancipation offers another example. As early as July, 1862, Lincoln had concluded that a proclamation of emancipation, based upon military necessity, was essential to the cause of the Union. On the advice of his cabinet he postponed action until the North should win a major battle. In late August, in a letter to Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune, Lincoln asserted that if he could save the Union without freeing a single slave he would do it. On Sept. 13, in a meeting with Chicago clergymen, he advanced strong arguments against emancipation without, however, committing himself.

Then, on Sept. 17, came the Battle of Antietam. Five days later Lincoln issued the proclamation. He had taken two months, perhaps much longer, for deliberation.

THE SAME DELIBERATENESS marked Lincoln's approach to reconstruction. As early as the summer of 1863, almost two years before the end of the war, he was reflecting on this basic problem. He had ideas, but had not come to firm conclusions.

In fact, it may be said that he never did come to unalterable conclusions on reconstruction. In his last public address, April 11, 1865, he ended with this statement: "In the present 'situation' as the phrase goes, it may be my duty to make some new announcement to the people of the South. I am considering, and shall not fail to act, when satisfied that action will be proper."

This is not to say that Lincoln's deliberateness was vacillation. He could and did act quickly enough when quick action was necessary. He lost no time, for example, in overruling military commanders who issued unauthorized proclamations of emancipation, and he speedily reversed the overzealous general who ordered the suppression of the Chicago Times. But when a problem was many-sided, he took time for study and reflection.

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Abe's Life Offers No Solutions for Today

Editor's Note — In the month of his birth, and the centenary of his assassination, what is the legacy of Abraham Lincoln for today's world? Here Paul M. Angle, author, director of the Chicago History Society and student of Lincolniana for 40 years, sets forth his view of Lincoln's true gift to history.

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Written for the Associated Press

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Angle, Paul
Dallas Morning News
Lincoln Institute

Armstrong, Elmon

Elmon Armstrong

Armstrong, Elmon

A TRIBUTE TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN

By ELMON ARMSTRONG 1922

February 12th brings to the lovers of liberty a mental musing upon the legacy Abraham Lincoln left to a longing world. The strange, sad, and sweet story of Lincoln's life, has been the continuous theme of writer and speaker since he became an active force in a most important event of our country's history. It is known now since the light of knowledge has come and has driven away the shadow of misunderstanding, that Lincoln, the Southerner, was the best friend the Southland ever had.

He was the "great Commoner" of his day; a gentle leader of humankind, and the master logician in mighty councils of this country's great thinkers. He was the friend of right, and the foe of wrong. Personally, he was a lovable character, genial, generous and just. As President, he was plain and devoid of pomp. As a statesman, he was safe, sane and sure. As a man, he was modest and mighty.

The use of power is the test of greatness. Let it be said of Lincoln that having almost absolute power, he never abused it, except perhaps, on the side of mercy. He longed to exercise the pardoning power. He never raised his hands to strike, but often raised them in benediction. When victory came to the forces of the Northern army, and the people of the Southland were vanquished, it is said some of Lincoln's advisers, in their exultant fanaticism, asked him if he desired to hang the Southerners. Quickly came this reply of wisdom on the wings of his wit: "Hang them? No, sir! We'll hang on to them forever."

He was the staunch friend of the people, and the greatest conserver of the Constitution that ever presided over the destinies of our nation. He said: "The people are the rightful masters of both Congress and courts, not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution."

Lincoln was human and had his imperfections, but we have not seen his like in this time. The simple truth must stand. Words are weak, and the voice of praise is vain. By the richness of his life, his words and his deeds, he won the plaudits of the poor, and the praise of an unwilling press. His wise and truthful words have been the prop of the patriot for over half a century; and the sentiments he gave forth will inspire high endeavor among the peoples of the earth, until languages are lost and lips are dust. He combined greatness and goodness, with an ease that won the hearts of human kind, and confused the discerning self-server.

He was the master of the story teller's art, and a believer that right makes might. He was:

"A blend of mirth and sadness,
smiles and tears;
A quaint knight errant of the
pioneers;
A homely hero, born of star and
sod;
A peasant prince; a masterpiece
of God."

This great man believed in equal rights for all and special privileges for none. He abhorred slavery and tyranny, and he loved liberty and justice. With a big heart and a broad mental vision, he realized and saw through the mists, a golden dawning of a grander day.

Every true American in this hour of our country's trials, in this period of the world's foment and frenzy, in this day of anxiety, breathes a fervent prayer in silent and patriotic spirit that might be voiced in these words: "Oh, God! Give us another Abraham Lincoln."

WRIGHT

By ELMON ARMSTRONG.

Kan. City Journal Post 2-11-23

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"The people are the rightful masters of both congress and courts, not to overthrow the constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the constitution."

Lincoln was human and had his imperfections, but we have not seen his like in this time. The simple truth must stand. Words are weak, and the voice of praise is vain. By the richness of his life, his words and his deeds, he won the plaudits of the poor and the praise of an unwilling press. His wise and truthful words have been the prop of the patriot for over half a century, and the sentiments he gave forth will inspire high endeavor among the peoples of the earth, until languages are lost and lips are dust. He combined greatness and goodness with an ease that won the hearts of humankind, and confused the discerning self-server.

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His Gettysburg speech of a few minutes, compared with Edward Everett's two-hour oration, so far surpasses Everett's effort that Everett's words are never read, while those of Lincoln are still ringing down the ages. The mighty thought that "this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth," has safely preserved our country and inspired millions in every country and every clime to keep up the struggle of the ages, so that the tyrannies of all ages—royalty and autocracy—are crumbling.

Lincoln was great because he was good. Lincoln was good because he was great.

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Armstrong, Elmon

Elmon Armstrong

A Tribute to Abraham Lincoln.

Editor The Journal:

This date brings to the lovers of liberty a mental musing upon the legacy Abraham Lincoln left to a longing world. The strange, sad, and sweet story of Lincoln's life, has been the continuous theme of writer and speaker, since he became an active force in a most important event of our country's history. It is known now, since the light of knowledge has come and has driven away the shadow of misunderstanding, that Lincoln, the Southerner, was the best friend the Southland ever had.

He was the "great commoner" of his day; a gentle leader of humankind, and the master logician in the mighty councils of this country's great thinkers. He was the friend of right, and the foe of wrong. Personally, he was a lovable character, genial, generous and just. As president, he was plain and devoid of pomp. As a statesman, he was safe, sane and sure. As a man, he was modest and mighty.

The use of power is the test of greatness. Let it be said of Lincoln that having almost absolute power, he never abused it, except perhaps on the side of mercy. He longed to exercise the pardoning power. He never raised his hands to strike, but often raised them in benediction. When victory came to the forces of the Northern army, and the people of the Southland were vanquished, it is said some of Lincoln's advisers, in their exultant fanaticism, asked him if he desired to hang the Southerners. Quickly came this reply of wisdom on the wings of his wit: "Hang them? No sir! We'll hang on to them forever."

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Every true American in this hour of our country's trials, in this period of the world's foment and frenzy, in this day of anxiety, breathes a fervent prayer in silent and patriotic spirit, that might be voiced in these words:

"Oh, God! Give us another Abraham Lincoln."

ELMON ARMSTRONG.

Kansas City Journal

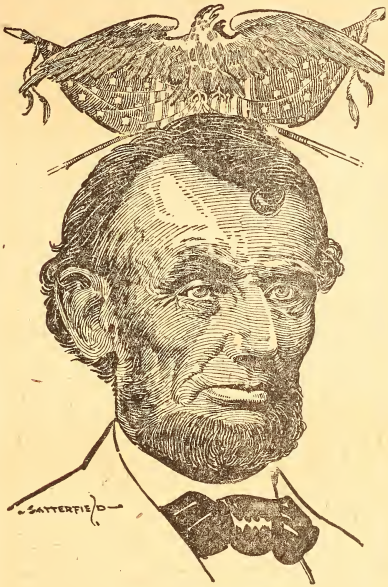
Armstrong, Elmon

Elmon Armstrong

Kansas City Journal-Post

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1923.

Abraham Lincoln



By ELMON ARMSTRONG.

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Arnall, Gov. Ellis G.

PAPER Chronicle

TOWN DeKalb, ILL.

DATE Mar 23, 1946

Tribute Paid Lincoln by a Gov. Arnall

A wreath of southern magnolia leaves laid upon Abraham Lincoln's tomb today, the tribute of Gov. Ellis G. Arnall of Georgia. The southern governor stood bareheaded yesterday and pleaded for the south's "economic readmission to the union."

Earl O. Fay, tomb custodian and a resident of DeKalb until a few months ago, stated that Arnall was the most outstanding southerner ever to honor the man who led the Union against the south, according to a United Press dispatch.

The Georgia governor came to Illinois to speak before the south central division of the Illinois Education Association. He asked the nation to adopt an attitude of fairness and honesty "such as Lincoln displayed" in dealing with the southern states.

"Lincoln knew that our nation could not endure half slave and half free," he said. "Today we must realize that nowhere in this world can some men be free until all men are free everywhere. We must recognize that freedom must include not only physical and political freedom but economic freedom as well."

"The south today is proud of Lincoln and glad he labored to save the union. We are proud to be a part of this great nation. But we must be readmitted to the union economically if we are to live in tranquility and contentment," the governor stated in closing.

AUNT JEAN'S DAILY TALK

WE cherish Lincoln's memory today, 104 years after his birth, and with the boys and girls of this generation learning all of good traits and characteristics of this greatest man of American history, it is safe to assume that his memory will be honored for all the years to come.

There is so much to admire in the career of Lincoln and for the boys of today to emulate. The self-reliant boy who overcame all obstacles and rose to be a great man illustrates the truth of what has so often been told, that the obscure, hard-working boy with few chances to secure an education will surpass the most brilliant of scholars in the world's work unless they are endowed with the rugged virtues that make for success.

The history of Lincoln has been read by nearly every boy and girl and the written words of the man himself in his memorable address at Gettysburg have been memorized by them. Could these words be excelled for simplicity and style? You have libraries in your homes with the choicest books by celebrated writers on the shelves, and perhaps you do not try to learn the contents of these books unless they are introduced into your school studies.

Lincoln, as you all know, in his boyhood days would lie on the floor of the rude log cabin, which was his home, and enjoy and absorb the contents of three books—the Bible, "Pilgrim's Progress" and "Aesop's Fables," books that are popular and widely read by youths of today—but when we think of the liberal education obtained by Lincoln from their perusal, we wonder at it more and more as we realize fully the high attainments of this great man.

AUNT JEAN.

Avery, J. B.

Abraham Lincoln

To The Republican:—Some years ago a quiet, sympathetic man whose heart was gentle and free from rancor, plunged the nation into a bloody civil war for the sake of a principle. This man suffered agonies through the dark days of that war. For a time the fortunes of the conflict were against him. Accusations of insincerity and inefficiency were hurled at him. Bereaved mothers and wives wrote letters to him; some were pitiful in their grief, others bitter in their denunciation of this kind, homely and distressed man as a hated killer of men and a wanton destroyer of homes.

He bore bravely the burden of the troubles and sorrows of a nation at odds with itself. But, though often sore at heart and weary of mind this great man kept faith. Through distressing days of defeat in battle, of discouraging disloyalty in his supporters, he remained true to his belief in that noble ideal of freedom for all men regardless of race, color or creed.

This same man it was who after the critical battle of the war had been fought, went down to the field fresh marked with thousands of new white crosses, and concluded a short oration with these simple words, "and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

And it was this same man who in a time of doubt in the outcome of the war, voiced in all simplicity his guiding faith, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who will have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Now the passing of time has vindicated Abraham Lincoln for his stand on the two great issues of his day, freedom and union.

Today Lincoln remains the great leader of our history, not through satisfying the passing whims of his fellow citizens, but because he had the sight to see the way and had the courage to lead—forward.

It is fitting therefore that we as a nation have by common consent given special emphasis to this day as a season for the paying of homage to the memory of the great American, the man of men and man among men—Abraham Lincoln.

J. B. AVERY

Fresno, February 11, 1925.